



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

BOARD MINUTES
April 1, 2004

Members Present: George Greenidge-*President*, Robert Kinney-*Vice President*, Gloria Coney-*Clerk*, Mike Foley-*Treasurer*, Joelee Baker Bey, Judy Flashner, Michael Glavin, Mark Maloney, Elizabeth Miranda, Charlotte Golar Richie, Lila Reid, Jayne Talbot, Frederick Umeh, Roberta Williams.

Members Absent: Ralph Cooper, Betty Greene, Juanita Wade

BCI Staff: Shirley Carrington and Sherry O'Brien

EDIC Staff: Ken Barnes, Jobs and Community Service

Guests: Mike Mitchell, Youth Opportunity /Boston

Ms. Coney, Clerk, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To accept minutes of the February 24th, 2004 Board Meeting subject to the following changes:
Section 4 (Procurements) "addistance" should have been spelled "Assistance".
Section 4 (Procurements) and Section 5 (Committee Reports) correction of Mr. Glavin's name.
Section 4 (Procurements) in the discussion of the micro-loan and technical assistance program reads "subject to annual review".

By: Mr. Foley

Second: Mr. Umeh

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Greenidge thanked Board members for coming out on a very wet, rainy evening. He reported to the Board that Ms. Araujo was ill and regrets that she is unable to be at the meeting. In response to the request of the Board President, Mr. Maloney distributed a Conflict of Interest Statement drafted by EDIC's attorney. Mr. Greenidge stated that it would be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting. He also requested that Ms. Wade, Mr. Maloney and Ms. Golar Richie speak to the Mayor about the vacant appointed Board seats. Mr. Maloney mentioned that Mayor Menino has been out sick for a few days. The Board agreed to send a get well note to the Mayor.

In response to a question by Mr. Baker-Bey about whether businesses could be referred to Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corp. (DBEDC) for the micro loans, Ms. Carrington responded that referrals to DBEDC could start and that contact information would be sent to the Board. Mr. Greenidge closed his report by discussing the importance of the three proposed votes on the agenda.

The proposal to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Summer Youth Employment for a total of \$1,000,000 was presented. Mr. Foley explained that this initiative would be supported as follows:

\$226,819.43	to be reallocated from the unspent and de-obligated 2003 Summer allocation
\$ 6,052.13	to be reallocated from the unspent and de-obligated '02-'03 After School Program
\$ 509.76	in Enhanced Enterprise Community funds to be reallocated from the unspent and de-obligated 2002 Intergenerational Technology program



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
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\$ 16,519.00	to be reallocated from Goal G Tax Incentives program unspent allocation
\$167,556.00	proceeds of the Bond financing program
\$ 14,147.80	Interest earned
\$568,395.88	Program funds

Discussion followed. Ms. Miranda voiced the following: need for an opportunity for feedback between the community and the Summer Job Program providers to discuss the strengths and challenges of the program; BCI's impact on the Summer Jobs program; outcomes from last year's Summer Jobs Program; and whether this year's program would be "big organizations win over the small organizations?" Ms. Carrington responded that BCI had final reports from the 2002 and 2003 Summer Program providers which included the following on each youth hired: age, sex, employer, job type, rate of pay and high school. BCI/JCS staff monitoring of the programs included a review of each student's record for documentation of EZ residency, resume and portfolio of the student's work experience.

In response to the Board conversation on "large programs would collaborate with small organizations" in responding to RFPs, no specific vote was taken on the matter. Ms. Carrington explained that for the Summer Jobs program, BCI is looking for organizations with the existing capacity to not only place hundreds of youth but also process the payroll. To maximize the investment in Zone youth, 90% of funding will support salaries and 10% will cover administrative costs. Unless an agency has the capacity, it would not be advantageous to try to operate the Summer Jobs program.

Mr. Kinney suggested that a letter be written to the State requesting additional funding to leverage BCI's \$1,000,000 for the Summer Jobs Program. He also asked that Board members assist in making businesses aware that they get a tax credit for hiring summer youth.

Mr. Greenidge reminded the Board that these comments would best be covered in committee meetings and suggested that Ms. Miranda chair the Health and Well Being committee under which the Summer Jobs Program is funded. Mr. Kinney expressed an interest in serving on this committee. Mr. Mitchell, of Youth Opportunity Boston, volunteered to work with the funded agencies to recruit Zone youth. Mr. Maloney commented that Mr. Mitchell works on his staff and suggested that he could represent him on any further discussions on Summer 2004. Ms. Carrington said that she would schedule a follow up meeting as soon as possible so that the RFQ could be released in a timely fashion.

Ms. Golar-Richie inquired about the numbers of youth getting jobs with this year's funds as compared to last year. Ms. Carrington explained that the numbers reflect the fact that 18 year olds hired in supervisory roles receive a higher salary. Mr. Foley offered a friendly amendment to the motion, which stated, 'that after consultation with the Committee, BCI will issue an RFQ for the Summer Jobs Program.'

Motion: Invest a total of \$1,000,000 of Empowerment Zone funds in Goal B10 to provide summer support of approximately 800 youth 14 to 17, and 18 year olds returning to high school. During the Summer of 2004 Zone youth would work in community based organizations, non-profits or public agencies in or in proximity of the Zone in a School-to-Career learning model. After consultation with the Committee, BCI staff will develop and issue an RFQ for organizations in the City which can provide the aforementioned services.

By: Ms. Flashner

Second: Ms. Talbot

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 1 (Mr. Baker-Bey)

Motion: Carried

3. PROCUREMENTS

Ms. Carrington presented background information about the Family Opportunity Network. Mr. Glavin asked about the general approach of funding more FONs as opposed to less. Ms. Carrington explained that all areas of the Zone were covered by the funding of the four collaborations. Based on the review of the proposals and site visits, the team felt that Brookview House would provide coverage for all areas in the Zone with their expertise and services to the homeless population. In response to the question as to why the other two proposals not proposed for funding, Ms. Carrington explained that Lena Park Community Development Corporation had applied to serve the exact same area as Boston Centers for Youth and Families. BCYF's proposal scored approximately 20 points higher. Whittier Street Health Center's proposal scored lowest of all the proposals for the Lower Roxbury/South End area.

Motion: This vote authorizes the Executive Director, on behalf of BCI, to enter into contracts with the following organizations to support approximately 1,000 Zone individuals/families in two years of comprehensive case management that leads to economic self-sufficiency. These amounts include



support to establish a network linking collaborative Partners.

1. BCYF/Citywide Board of Boston Comm. Centers, Inc. \$ 285,000
in collaboration with: Roxbury Multi Service Center, La Alianza Hispana,
The Home For Little Wanderers, Dimock Comm. Health Center,
Operation ABLE, Roxbury Defenders' Youth Advocacy Project
2. Brookview House, Inc. \$ 190,000
in collaboration with: Project PLACE
3. Catholic Charitable Bureau of Archdiocese of Boston/Laboure Center \$ 195,000
in collaboration with: El Centro del Cardenal, Computer Learning Center
and STRIVE
4. Jewish Vocational Services \$ 185,000
in collaboration with: Greater Boston Legal Services, HomeStart,
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Boston Asian: Youth
Essential Services, South Cove Community Health Center
5. Mission Main Resident Services Corporation \$ 285,000
In collaboration with: Dimock Community Health Center, Madison Park
Community Development Corporation, Morgan Memorial Goodwill
Industries, La Alianza Hispana

Total: **\$1,135,000**

By: Mr. Maloney Second: Mr. Kinney.
Recused: 2 (Mr. Foley) Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0
(Ms. Coney)

Motion: Carried

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Budget

Mr. Foley presented the proposed budget. Brief discussion followed. Mr. Umeh noted the budget amount for marketing and stated that in his opinion, this line item should not be reduced as many community residents still needed to learn about the Empowerment Zone.

- Motion:** 1. To approve the 2004 Governance/Operations Four Year Budget (2004 – 2007) for a total of \$2,197,460.88.
2. Of the total grant of \$24,953,966.00 to approve a total of \$1,247,698.30 to support BCI's 5% Admin. costs and \$1,795,376.60 to support EDIC 10% Admin. costs.
 3. To approve \$568,395.88 for the 2004 Summer employment of youth. Specific details of the program are contained in a separate proposed vote.
 4. To approve \$10,800 in a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Program Staff. This 3% COLA includes payment retroactive to July 1, 2003 and an additional 3% COLA effective on July 1, 2004.
 5. To approve a Reserve of \$218,203.24.
 6. To approve funding as follows to each Program goal. The percentage of funding allocated to each Program goal mirrors that of the Strategic Plan.

Economic Opp. and Job Creation	17.14%	\$237,326
Health & Well-Being	26.67%	\$369,282
Education & Job Readiness	35.25%	\$488,083
Community Capacity Building	0.86%	\$ 11,908
Physical Env. For Change	0.57%	\$ 7,892
Link Comm. Through Tech.	8.82%	\$122,125
Tax Incentives	0.55%	\$ 7,615
Flexible Program Funds	10.14%	\$140,402

By: Mr. Baker-Bey Second: Mr Umeh
Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

B. Ex-Offender Initiative

Mr. Kinney thanked Mr. Baker-Bey for attending the Federal Bonding informational meeting on February 25th. Mr. Kinney played an 11 minute video on the Federal Bonding program. He informed the Board that BCI has complimentary Bonds and that Massachusetts had not purchased bonds and suggested that in our letter to the Governor requesting leverage for Summer jobs, we should question why the State hasn't purchased Bonds.



Ms. Golar-Richie stated that the City of Baltimore had purchased bonds and if it makes sense to purchase bonds on a larger scale for use in Massachusetts.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Carrington thanked the Board for the beautiful flowers, notes and e-mails she received during her recent illness. Mr. Greenidge also thanked BCI staff for their hard work over the past year. (Board applause)

Mr. Greenidge commented on the following issues: he has enjoyed committee presentations and suggested incorporating non-profits who have received funding in the presentations; was pleased with the votes and will resume the "visioning" meetings in May; and BCI needs to think of ways to market itself such as a "Splash" event on Summer jobs in the middle of June, inviting the press and highlighting BCI at the Democratic National Convention.

Mr. Greenidge closed the meeting by asking Board Members to participate in a plus/delta exercise and identify what they liked about the meeting and what they would like to change.

Positive

Ideas were listened to and respected
Learned something new (Federal Bonding)
Good Attendance
Very productive
Good conversation about proposed votes

Change

Meeting ended late-8:15PM
Have hot food
Include agenda in the Newspaper Board notice

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



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